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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 307
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to proclaim the week of March 3-10, 1996 as
Tennessee Home Education Week.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary educators who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource: the children; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is committed to excellence in education and to public policy that strengthens the family; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee recognizes parental choice in pursuit of that excellence and the importance of parental involvement in education; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee appropriately and statutorily authorizes home education as an educational alternative, as well as recognizes the rights of parents to teach and train their children because of their religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the number of children being educated at home in the State of Tennessee now exceeds ten thousand enrollees from grades K-12, with the local superintendent or one of the church related schools offering a home education program; and

WHEREAS, home schools can afford families the opportunity to develop positive character qualities and instill desired values in children; and

WHEREAS, home education was the predominant form of education in the early years of America, and many Americans such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Edison, Douglas MacArthur, Pearl S. Buck and Franklin Roosevelt were primarily educated at home; as well as many other diverse and creative Americans; and

WHEREAS, studies continue to confirm that children who are home educated score well on national achievement tests, exhibit self-confidence, and are fully prepared to meet the challenges of today's society; and

WHEREAS, the duly elected members of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly praise the home schooling fathers and mothers for teaching and training their children in reading, writing, history, literature, geography, science, mathematics and civics, and encourage those families and all Tennesseans to strive for educational excellence knowing that being so educated, they will be better prepared to face the challenges of life; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Tennessee home educators and home-educated children be recognized for their contribution to the diversity and quality of education in this great state; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That we hereby proclaim the week of March 3-10, 1996 as TENNESSEE HOME EDUCATION WEEK and we call this observance to the attention of all Tennessee citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.